

Board of County Commissioners

Division of Planning & Development

Building Services Department

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Sumter County Building Department Agricultural Farm Building Request for Exemption from Building Code Requirements

Instructions and Important Information

To Owners wanting to **REQUEST AN EXEMPTION** from the Florida Building Code for an Agricultural Farm Building.

Florida Statutes exempts agricultural farm buildings from the Florida Building Code, building plan review, and building permitting and inspection. Examples of agricultural farm buildings covered by this exemption include, but are not limited to:

- Barns
- Greenhouses
- Storage buildings for farm equipment, animal supplies or feed
- Storage buildings for equipment used to implement farming and/or agricultural practices
- Storage buildings for crops grown and raised on site (cold storage)

In order to qualify for the exemption, the agricultural farm building must meet the following criteria:

- Not used as a residential dwelling unit
- Not used for personal storage
- Not used for care or sheltering of animals for personal use
- Only used for agricultural or farm operations
- Located on property classified as agricultural or greenbelt exempt by the Sumter County Property Appraiser's Office
- Located on property that agricultural and farming uses are permitted consistent with Sumter County's Comprehensive Plan and Land Development Regulations

To obtain the exemption for the agricultural farm building, the property owner must complete the attached application and submit it to the Sumter County Division of Planning & Development to demonstrate compliance with the criteria for exemption.

The following provides instructions in filling out the attached application:

- Provide the address of the property and the legal description of the property where the proposed agricultural farm building will be located. The legal description for the property may be obtained from the deed for the property or obtained from the Sumter County Property Appraiser's Office.
- Question #1: If the proposed agricultural farm building will be used in any way as a residential dwelling unit, either permanent or temporary, mark the box "Yes".

If the proposed agricultural farm building is used in any way as a residential dwelling unit, then it is not exempt.

- Question #2: Mark the box next to each farming use that the proposed agricultural farm building will be used. If you mark "Other" please explain.
- Question #3: Mark "Yes" if the proposed agricultural farm building will be used as part of the operation of an active farm that produces farm products for sale.

If the proposed agricultural farm building is not used as a part of an active farm that produces farm products for sale, then it is not exempt.

- Question #4: Mark "Yes" if the property is currently granted or has applied for the "greenbelt" or "agricultural" exemption for property taxes from the Sumter County Property Appraiser's Office. Include a copy of supporting documentation to verify the exemption or application for exemption (property tax bill, print out of parcel record from Property Appraiser's Office, completed and signed application for the "greenbelt" or "agricultural" exemption, other documentation from Property Appraiser's Office verifying exemption).

If the property on which the proposed agricultural farm building is located is not "agricultural" or "greenbelt" exempted, then it is not exempt.

- Question #5: Mark "Yes" if there are homes (mobile, modular, conventional) within 150 feet of the proposed agricultural farm building.
- Question #6: Provide the name of the power company if electric service is planned for the proposed agricultural farm building.
- Provide a site plan sketch (2 copies) showing the dimensions and location of the proposed agricultural farm building, distance from the property lines of the proposed agricultural farm building, as well as any other buildings within 150 feet of the proposed agricultural farm building. If any other buildings are within 150 feet of the proposed agricultural farm building the granting of the exemption is at the discretion of the Sumter County Building Official.

Submit the completed, signed, and notarized application, site plan sketches, and application fee of \$25.00 to the Sumter County Zoning Department for review. The application fee is retained by the County regardless of the approval or denial of the exemption to the Florida Building Code.

If the application is approved for exemption, you will be charged a Fire Impact Fee based on the Sumter County Fire Impact Fee Ordinance #2005-29. Upon payment of the Fire Impact Fee you will receive an approved signed application by the Sumter County Zoning and Building Departments. You will also receive a green "plaque" that should be posted during construction to identify this exemption. A copy of this approved application can be submitted to your power company to receive electrical power on this structure, if desired.

If at any time the exempt structure no longer meets the exemption criteria in this application, then the exempt structure will lose its exempt status and be subject to the applicable building codes, plan review, and permit process.

If you have any questions regarding this application please contact the Sumter County Planning & Development Division at (352) 793-0270.

Sincerely,
Harold "Skip" Lukert, Sumter County Building Official
August 14, 2006

References

Section 553.73, Florida Statutes
Section 604.50, Florida Statutes
Section 823.14, Florida Statutes
Section 193.461, Florida Statutes